

with the history of this case in the April number of the *Journal*, the thickness of the plates was inadvertently stated to be a quarter of an inch; it is, in fact, not quite one-eighth of an inch.)

Case of Coccyodynia cured. By A. GODFREY, M. D., of Sonora.—A few weeks ago I met with a case of coccyodynia of ten years' standing, in a woman, about 32 years of age. She suffered very severe pains in the region of the coccyx, whenever she attempted to sit down or to resume the erect posture, or to walk about. She could not lie down in bed or rise from it without the assistance of some one of her family, nor was she able to sit down on and to rise from a chair without taking hold of the back of the chair or some other object. Still, the least painful posture for her was to keep bent to a certain degree, as if in the act of sitting. While sitting on a chair and lying on her bed, she experienced a very disagreeable, dull, burning, and prickling sensation, which was frequently unbearable. She suffered excruciating pains when her body was swayed from side to side; the gluteal and coccygeal muscles of both sides seemed mostly to trouble her, but especially on the right side, to which the coccyx was somewhat drawn. She dreaded to sit down, and dreaded to rise up—dreaded to get into bed, and dreaded to get out of it. As she did not complain when her bowels were being moved, the tendons of the sphincter, and the fibres of the levator ani, did not appear affected, the disease seemed to be mostly confined to the gluteal and coccygeal muscles, and also perhaps to the sacro-sciatic ligaments, which produced traction. The patient states that she cannot tell how the affliction came on, and what caused it. She relates that she consulted a dozen of the best physicians in Tennessee (where she used to live), under whose treatment she successively was for a good while, without deriving any benefit from it, and finally they pronounced her incurable.

Whilst I was attending on a member of her family, she told me her affliction; and the symptoms of coccyodynia, as described in the lectures of Professor Simpson, which I had read in your *Monthly News and Library*, were so striking and plain in her case, that I offered to cure her. I proposed to perform the operation recommended by Professor Simpson, the isolation of the coccygeal bones from the surrounding tissue by means of a tenotomy knife (see *Simpson's Clinical Lectures on Diseases of Women*, Am. ed., p. 216), to which she readily consented. I performed the operation on the 18th day of April last. The relief was effectual, instantaneous, perfect, and I hope permanent. The wound is healed up, and she feels very well. The patient continues to be perfectly free of pains.

Case of Triplets. By JAS. W. PITTING, M. D.—I was called on the 6th of November, 1860, about half-past four o'clock P. M., to see Mrs. O'C., in labour. This was her sixth pregnancy. When I arrived, the child had been born two or three minutes; it was a girl, and weighed, about four and a half pounds; it was quite vigorous for its size. After having attended to it, I requested the mother to bear down, to facilitate the expulsion of the placenta at the next pain. She did so, and a boy was expelled with the membranes entire. A woman who was present informed me the first child was born in the same condition. This boy weighed nearly three and a half or four pounds. The circulation being feeble, I sprinkled cold water upon the child, and immediately it began to cry. In a few minutes it became very lively; it was weaker than the first.

I waited again for the expulsion of the placenta, but was disappointed, as in a few minutes another boy came forth with the membranes, like the two preceding, entire. This child was remarkably pale and weak. I treated it in the same manner as the other boy, and had the satisfaction to see it improve very much before I left the house. It was, however, the least vigorous of the three.

The placenta, two in number, were expelled in five minutes after the birth of the last child. The boy and girl first born were attached to the larger placenta, and the last boy to the smaller, which was the last expelled. The children were all doing well when I left the house. For the mother, I ordered the ordinary camphorated solution of sulphate of morphia, two grains to the ounce, of which she was to take a teaspoonful every two hours until sleep was induced.

The expulsion of the children and placenta did not occupy more than twenty minutes. The woman never had a plural birth before; her husband's sister had twins on one occasion.

Nov. 7th. Saw Mrs. O'C. this morning at ten o'clock. She had passed a comfortable night; this morning, however, she was seized with nausea and vomiting. Great prostration followed, and I found her hardly able to speak. I prescribed for her a half grain of opium, conjoined with one of calomel, every two hours, intending to see her in the evening.

This woman had no milk, but a neighbour who had been recently confined was suggested to me as a person who would nurse the children temporarily. I had, therefore, ordered the woman who acted as nurse to apply to her, but she neglected to do so. The children being naturally weak, having been without food for fourteen hours, and also poorly clad, were cold and debilitated; in fact, the fingers of one were blue with cold. I insisted on their being fed, in no gentle tone, before I left.

I called in the evening to see them, but the gentleman who had been engaged to attend the woman had taken charge of the case. I would have weighed these children, and suggested it to the mother, but she gravely informed me "she never had but one weighed, and all the children were healthy but him, and he had had a *sore neck* ever since." Of course, I urged the matter no further. The parents were wretchedly poor.

11th. I have since learned all the children are dead. The boys died on the 8th—one in the morning, the other at night; the girl died on the evening of the 9th. If these children had been properly cared for by the parents, the result might have been different.

PHILADELPHIA, December, 1861.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

Vesico-Vaginal Fistula; Spontaneous Relief. "The American Operation."—[Read before the Obstetrical Society of Boston, by B. E. COTTING, M. D., Cor. Secretary of the Society.]

VESICO-VAGINAL fistula has been justly called a lamentable accident. Its consequences are truly deplorable; the remedy difficult, and, until recently, very uncertain. Spontaneous recovery, a result hardly to be hoped for, is a mere possibility. As an instance of such unexpected good fortune, the following case seems worthy of record.

In January, 1844, the patient, aged 33 years, was delivered of a first child.

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